

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 H-03 ABF-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

NSC-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 NEA-10 /100 W

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R 201014Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6397

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 10328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, XG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RFE/RL

REF: (A) STATE 136475 (B) STATE 134207 (C) STATE 140325

SUMMARY: FONOFF TELLS US THAT EC NINE "CORRESPONDENTS" DISCUSSED US REQUEST FOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT AT MEETING JULY 13 AND WILL DISCUSS AGAIN JULY 23. FRG, UK, AND NETHERLANDS MOST POSITIVELY INCLINED. INTEREST CENTERING ON "SUBSCRIPTIONS," WHICH WOULD ALSO BE FRG PREFERENCE IF IT POSSIBLE TO DO THE JOB THAT WAY. END SUMMARY

1.FRAU KRUEGER, WHO HAS NOW TAKEN OVER DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS RELATING TO RFE/RL (VON DUNGERN HAS DEPARTED TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POST AS MINISTER IN VIENNA), TOLD EMBOFF JULY 17 THAT THE EC NINE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO DISCUSS US PROPOSALS FOR EUROPEAN FUNDING OF THE RADIOS' RESEARCH AND THAT THE FRG,UK, AND NETHERLANDS APPEARED TO BE FORMING A USEFUL NUCLEAS OF STATES WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE RADIOS AND  
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INTERESTED IN FINDING A SOLUTION. THERE HAD ALREADY

BEEN SOME "CAUCUSING" AMONGST THESE THREE ON THE MARGINS OF THE JULY 13 MEETING. ON OTHER SIDE OF LEDGER, FRAU KRUEGER SAID FRANCE WAS MOST STRONGLY OPPOSED, OR AT LEAST LESS INTERESTED THAN ANYONE ELSE IN DOING ANYTHING.

2. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN BILATERAL FRG-UK CONTACTS. FRAU KRUEGER READ FROM A LETTER (NOT CLEAR WHETHER FROM FCO OR FROM UK EMBASSY BONN) STATING BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH FRG AND PUTTING FORWARD IDEA OF "MULTIPLE SUBSCRIPTIONS" AS A POSSIBLE SOLUTION. THOUGH IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL, WHAT BRITISH HAVE IN MIND, AS FRAU KRUEGER UNDERSTANDS IT, IS THAT INTERESTED EUROPEAN STATES WOULD ASSUME SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR GENERATING A LARGER NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR RFE/RL RESEARCH AND WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY A HIGHER PRICE FOR IT. (NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS A WORKING-LEVEL BRAINSTORM OR AN OFFICIAL BRITISH POSITION.) FOR SOME REASON, TARGET FIGURE BRITISH WERE WORKING WITH APPEARED TO BE \$3 MILLION, SHE SAID.

3. FRAU KRUEGER NOTED THAT ENLARGEMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE THE EASIEST WAY FOR FRG TO HANDLE SUPPORT PAYMENTS. AT SAME TIME, SHE EXPRESSED DOUBT (WHICH EMBOFF TOLD HER ON PERSONAL BASIS HE SHARED-SEE COMMENT BELOW) THAT THIS METHOD WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO RAISE \$4 MILLION ANNUALLY.

4. OTHER METHODS FOR CHANELLING EUROPEAN FUNDS TO THE RADIOS WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, FRAU KRUEGER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 10328

SAID.FIRST, A BUDGET ITEM WOULD RAISE ALL OF THE QUESTIONS--IN THE BUNDESTAG, AMONGST THE FRG PUBLIC, AND IN FRG RELATIONS WITH THE EE'S--WHICH FRG GOVERNMENT WANTS TO FINESSE. SECOND, THE DETERMINATION OF SHARES AND THE CHANNELING OF BUDGETED FUNDS TO THE RADIOS WOULD REQUIRE A MUCH HIGHER LEVEL OF COORDINATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAN WOULD SUBSCRIPTIONS; AND IT WOULD BE HARDER TO JUSTIFY AN FRG BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTION IF SOME MEMBERS OF THE 9 WERE NOT PARTICIPATING.

5. POINTING TO CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY OVER THE LEVEL OF FUNDING THAT WOULD BE AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS AND TO THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY THE DOLLAR'S LOSS OF VALUE, EMBOFF STRESSED IMPORTANCE WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO EUROPEAN SUPPORT, AT LEAST AT THE LEVEL PROPOSED IN MAY (\$3.9 MILLION) AND PREFERABLY AT A HIGHER LEVEL. EMBOFF WELCOMED FACT THAT EC 9 HAD INITIATED TALKS ON FUNDING. AT SAMETIME, HE EXPRESSED ON A PERSONAL BASIS THE HOPE THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION

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WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO SUBSCRIPTIONS BUT WOULD ALSO DEAL WITH POSSIBILITIES FOR DIRECT BUDGETARY SUPPORT.

6. EMBOFF ALSO BROACHED SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL A. FRAU KRUEGER TOOK NOTE OF IT AND COMMENTED ONLY THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT TO ARRANGE FOR FRG FUNDING OF THE EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS.

7. COMMENT: IN EXPRESSING DOUBT ABOUT THE ABILITY OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO DO THE WHOLE JOB, EMBOFF MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND THAT, WE DID NOT WISH TO DISCOURAGE ANY APPROACH TO EUROPEAN FUNDING THAT WOULD PROVIDE A HELPFUL AND SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLE-

MENTARY SOURCE OF REVENUE TO THE RADIOS. WE DO FEEL,  
HOWEVER, THAT WE OUGHT NOT AT THIS EARLY STAGE TO  
LET THE EUROPEANS NARROW THEIR DISCUSSION DOWN TO AN  
APPROACH THAT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO FALL FAR SHORT OF  
THE DESIRED FIGURE.  
HILLENBRAND

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